

REMARKS

Pending claims 1-8 have been examined and are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Katoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,097,168 (hereinafter "Katoh").

Applicants amend claims 1 and 5 to further clarify various aspects of the claimed invention.

As amended, claim 1 is directed to a numerical value control system that includes a binary data preparing unit, wherein a data/program (*e.g.*, a CAD data/program) is analyzed and interpolated, speed information is generated, and feed-forward compensation is carried out. The binary data preparing unit provides a numerical value control (NC) unit of the system with data via a database unit. Since the data is prepared by the binary data preparing unit and stored beforehand in the database unit, the numerical value control unit can be operated using the data including a move command of a binary format prepared in advance and stored in the database unit, instead of analyzing a work program at a work program analyzing unit of the NC unit. Consequently, a load of the numerical value control unit is reduced and a processing capacity of the numerical value control unit is improved.

Conversely, in Katoh, a numerical value control program is prepared by a CAD system through a predetermined storage medium or communication means, a numerical control program analysis and processing position distribution unit (of the NC unit) processes the numerical control program, and compensation units output compensation amounts (Katoh: col. 6, lines 9-55). Katoh does not use data prepared in advance and stored in a database. Indeed, Katoh fails

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to disclose or suggest any database for storing data prepared in advance, which is to be used instead of analyzing a work program at a work program analyzing unit of an NC unit. Furthermore, Katoh fails to disclose or suggest analyzing and interpolating a CAD data, and storing the analyzed and interpolated data in a database in advance.

For at least these exemplary reasons, the numerical value control system of claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Katoh. The numerical value control processing method of claim 5 is not rendered obvious by Katoh based on a rationale similar to that set forth above for claim 1.

Consequently, claims 2-4 and 6-8 are patentable over Katoh, at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 5, respectively.

As a formal matter, the Examiner acknowledges receipt of the priority documents received in this National Stage Application from the International Bureau. Additionally, the Examiner provides a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 12, 2002, thereby indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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